



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Observing United Nations Week in Your Church

Sunday, October 20, has been designated as World Order Sunday marking the beginning of United Nations Week, October 20-26. With this issue of **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**, all pastors of our fellowship are receiving a copy of a leaflet for World Order Sunday prepared by the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches.

The Council for Christian Social Action strongly urges the reading or distribution of this message and the observance of the day in prayer and sermon in each congregation. Special resources are suggested in the October issue of **SOCIAL ACTION**. We also recommend a program of education and action regarding the United Nations and our international responsibilities in connection with United Nations week.

To this end, we call attention to the following suggestions offered in a leaflet entitled *United Nations Week*, published by the Church Peace Union:

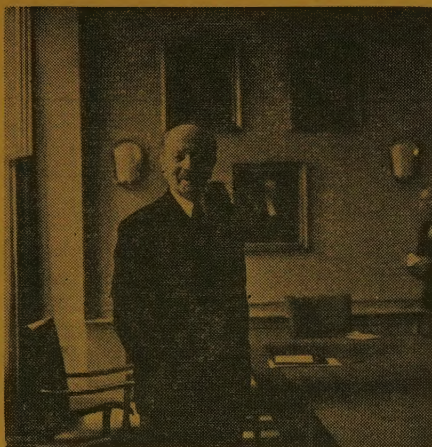
Religious leaders can help to promote international understanding by preparing sermons on the subject during UN Week, by organizing parish activities, such as bazaars and panel discussions, and by urging their parishioners to cooperate in church-sponsored overseas projects. Sunday school teachers might stress the moral and religious bases of world order and the responsibility of the churches to the UN. Last year, the Oxford Methodist Church in Oxford, Mass., held a Church Fair entitled "Christmas at the United Nations." The Fair offered food and gift items, many of which were suitable as Christmas gifts. These items were presented in booths representing many of the UN member nations. In addition to local products, each booth displayed goods typical of the country represented.

Church World Service, 215 Fourth Ave., New

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CHURCHES IN EASTERN GERMANY

By RAY GIBBONS



Bishop Otto Dibelius greets CCSA Seminar in East Berlin.

"Nazism was a temptation to Christians in Germany," said Pastor Martin Niemöller to the 1957 CCSA European Seminar, "but there is no confusion in the minds of Christians in Eastern Germany in respect to communism. They know it is opposed to the Church and the Christian faith." Until the June 17th uprising in 1951, this conflict continued with the hope of successful liberation. Since then it has continued without such hope. Many find escape to the West the only solution to the unending frustration; others find their Christian faith sufficient to bear all things.

For the seventeen members of the seminar the struggle of the East German churches with communism gave evidence of greater religious vitality than in any other part of western Europe. A number of valiant efforts have been made by the Evangelical Academies and the Kirchentag to revivify the post-war Protestantism in other parts of Germany, but none can compare with the day-and-night resistance of the churches in the satellite countries and eastern Germany. The communist-controlled authorities realize that the church is the only organization which bridges the Iron Curtain. It is the only avenue by which the people can communicate through gift packages, books and Bibles, and occasional visits of church leaders. It is the symbol of unity which gives substance to the hope of the people for eventual reunification of Germany.

In the sea of misery for the churches of eastern Germany stands the island of Berlin. One-fourth of the churches in the Protestant part of Germany are without pastors so that those who remain are burdened with the care of additional churches when it is specially difficult to get assistance. In the last

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SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

October 14-16—United Nations — World Order Seminar, New York City.

October 20—World Order Sunday.

October 28—Race Relations Committee Meeting, Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland.

October 28—Committee on Religion and Education, Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland.

October 29-31—Council for Christian Social Action Meeting, Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland.

October 31—Editorial Board, **SOCIAL ACTION**, Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland.

January 19-26—Church and Economic Life Week.

January 29-31—Council for Christian Social Action Meeting, Buck Hill Falls Inn, Cresco, Pennsylvania.

February—Christian Social Action Month of Emphasis, United Church of Christ.

February 4-7—Churchmen's Washington Seminar, Washington, D. C.

February 9—Race Relations Sunday.

INSTITUTES WELL ATTENDED

The Council for Christian Social Action is immeasurably richer by the experience of two hundred and sixty-one persons who participated in its Christian Social Action Institutes held during July. Full-time members of the three institutes totaled 169: West Coast, 43; Midwest, 61; and Eastern, 65. Ninety-two part-time members brought the total to 261.

The programs of the three institutes were similar. Each opened with a series of three addresses on the Christian Basis for Social Action. Dr. John C. Bennett of Union Theological Seminary gave the series at the West Coast Institute; Dr. Hugo W. Thompson of Macalester College, at the Midwest Institute; and Dr. William L. Bradley of the Hartford Theological Seminary Foundation, at the Eastern Institute. Lively and penetrating discussion followed each address.

The second phase of the program dealt with current social issues and how churches can act upon them. Members of the CCSA staff and other leaders presented these topics and led discussion on Crucial Issues in Race Relations, The Churches and Social Welfare, The International Situation, and Our Daily Work.

The third phase of the program considered how a local church can organize for action, resources for action, and the group work methods which are most useful.

Worship was a meaningful part of the institutes. A service of worship was held each morning and evening prayers closed each day.

The West Coast Institute, July 9-13, was one of the first groups to use the beautiful new Ralston L. White Memorial Retreat Center of the Northern California Congregational Conference at Mill Valley, a few miles north of San Francisco. An afternoon among the giant redwood trees of the Muir Woods gave the delegates a welcome break from concentrated work.

The Midwest Institute, July 15-19, was held at Lakeland College, an institution of the Evangelical and Reformed Church near Sheboygan, Wisconsin. A swim in a nearby lake, a picnic, and a bottomless coffee urn contributed to the gaiety of the institute.

The Eastern Institute, July 23-27, was held at the Massachusetts Congregational Conference Center near Framingham. The gracious old house, the spacious green lawn and the stately trees

provided a beautiful background for earnest conversation.

One of the delightful by-products of the institutes was deeper acquaintance between Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed members of the United Church of Christ. Of the 169 full-time delegates, 34 were from the Evangelical and Reformed Church and 135 from Congregational Christian Churches. Delegates were so charmed by staff members from the other denomination that requests from CC churches indicate strong preferences for E and R visitors!

—Fern Babcock.

Observing United Nations Week in Your Church

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York 3, N. Y., is an organization devoted to overseas relief. Write for information concerning ways in which local groups may participate in "Self-Help" projects to provide seeds, tool kits, medical kits and other needed items for people in various parts of the world * * *

Many congregations are forming discussion groups to explore world affairs in a religious perspective. * * * The Council for Christian Social Action is offering this year a packet on international affairs entitled *American Responsibility in the Contemporary World*. The packet is designed for church study groups and covers three principal subjects: "The Christian Approach to United States Foreign Policy," "An Analysis of the Current World Situation," and "The Question of Foreign Economic Aid." This is priced at \$1.00 and may be ordered from the Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

For additional material, consult the following sources:

Man's New Hope: A Religious Approach to Foreign Aid by Justin Wroe Nixon. The Church Peace Union, 170 East 64th St., New York 21, N. Y. 112 pp. 50 cents.

The United Nations and Our Religious Heritage by Justin Wroe Nixon. The Church Peace Union. 96 pp. 50 cents.

Frances Chalmers Dies Abroad

Mrs. Allan Knight Chalmers of Newtonville, Massachusetts died in Bath, England on July 21.

Mrs. Chalmers was a member of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches, having been elected to this group by the 1954 meeting of the General Council.

At the time of her death, she and her husband were traveling in England.

A LOOK AT THE ATOM

Excellent resources for World Order Sunday and for education on international relations the year-round are contained in the October issue of *SOCIAL ACTION* magazine. Included in this issue is a report on the biological effects of atomic radiation, an article on Atoms for Peace, and discussion of the atomic age from the standpoint of Christian faith.

In addition, there is a report on the Council for Christian Social Action Seminar visit to the Soviet Union, and a section of appropriate resources for worship.

Religious Ethics and the Politics of Power by Vernon H. Holloway. The Church Peace Union. 72 pp. 50 cents.

The United Nations: New Perspectives by Alfred J. Hotz, The Church Peace Union. 71 pp. 35 cents.

The United Nations: Facts and Fallacies by John R. Inman. The Church Peace Union. 8 pp. Single copy free. 100 copies, \$1.00. 1,000 copies, \$10.00.

The United Nations and How It Works by David Cushman Coyle. New American Library, 501 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 208 pp. 35 cents.

Teachers will find a useful supplementary text in Leonard S. Kenworthy's *Introducing Children to the World*, Harper & Bros. \$3.75.

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Three key organizations have a wealth of program suggestions for UN Week observance which you will find indispensable:

American Association for the UN, 345 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y. Ask for their Community Guide and related materials.

U. S. Committee for the UN, 816 21st St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. makes available a Leader's Guide, as well as a wide variety of free and inexpensive leaflets, pamphlets and posters.

The Foreign Policy Association, 345 East 46th St., New York. Order their revised kit on the United Nations, "New Ideas for the UN" (\$1.00 plus postage), which includes basic readings about the functions and problems of the UN, and practical program aids, such as a UN fact sheet and opinion ballot and lists of films and publications.

Single copies of *United Nations Week* may be secured from the Church Peace Union, 170 East 64th St., New York 21, N. Y. Additional copies are \$1 per hundred.

KOINONIA FARM

Many readers of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY have followed with interest and concern the outrages committed against the Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia. When insurance carried by this inter-racial agricultural community was cancelled, friends cooperated in securing two thousand pledges from persons agreeing to pay up to \$50 each toward meeting any eventual losses by fire or other damage. Dr. Clarence Jordan, in a recent letter, reports that this plan has been successful.

The pressures to abandon the property continue on the part of "leading citizens" of Americus and vicinity. The 45 members of the Koinonia community have decided not to accede to this demand. However, they have decided that the only feasible alternative to the income formerly derived from eggs, irrigated farming and the farm market is from the processing and shelling of pecans.

This product would seem to be the least vulnerable to boycott for three reasons: (1) the market for pecans is almost entirely outside of Georgia; (2) the supply of pecans, abundant in the area, can be readily obtained from the large auction markets operated by the state and therefore not susceptible to boycott; (3) the shellers are powered by electricity which comes to the property through REA lines. Another advantage is that the busy season for shelling comes in the late Fall and Winter, the slack season for farming.

The hurdle that must be leaped over is the total cost for the machinery (a used plant for about \$30,000) and the necessary buildings and cold storage equipment (another \$20,000). Those who wish to identify themselves with this valiant group may do so by sending \$25 or more—2000 such persons at \$25 each would raise the \$50,000 required. The Koinonia Community is prepared to issue notes which will bear 4% interest. These would be repayable over a ten-year period, 200 of them falling due at the end of each year.

Since the pecan season begins October 1, buildings must be constructed and the machinery installed.

Individuals and groups who have been asking what they can do to assist may correspond directly with Koinonia Communities, Rural Route 2, Americus, Ga.

—Galen R. Weaver

CHURCHES IN EASTERN GERMANY

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two years, the State has refused to collect the church tax of eight to ten per cent of the income tax, and pastors are severely reduced in their salaries. Pastors in West Germany have voluntarily given large portions of their salaries to supplement the salaries of those in the East. But the overworked pastors need rest and refreshment, so they come to Berlin for short retreats. One of the chief functions of the Evangelical Academy in Berlin is to provide such retreats for laymen and church leaders.

The East German government's restriction on paper for church publications has cut the supply for religious education, hymnals, and church uses. Again, the West German churches have supplied these printed materials in large quantities. There is a limitation upon the amount that may be imported in bulk so that most of it must be sent in individual packages. There is a special allotment of paper for Bibles, and there is no great shortage at that point.

Religious instruction in the schools, which has long been the practice in Germany, has been forbidden in the Soviet zone. The churches have made valiant efforts to give such instruction in the churches, but it would require ten thousand volunteer teachers, and less than seven thousand have thus far been recruited and trained. But it is these teachers who are on the front line of faith in the struggle with the world, the flesh and the devil. They often grow weary in well-doing and need rest, refreshment, and stimulation in the twenty schools for training catechists, or in brief visits to the West.

Another restriction upon the churches is the suppression of youth organizations. Young people may meet for worship and religious instruction in the churches but not for scouts or fellowship groups. The churches have been hard-pressed to find space for the instruction classes, holding meetings in every possible place, including coalbins and organ lofts. Since no camps are permitted, some young people go to West Germany in the summer. The day our Seminar was in Berlin, several church workers were arrested as they brought young people to the city for such a camp conference. The charge was kidnaping. It took the full time and effort of the highest church

authorities to persuade the police that these actions were not a serious threat to the State.

Not all the help to the churches in Eastern Germany comes from the western churches. About one-eighth of the assistance comes through ecumenical channels from churches outside Germany. This is a source of constant encouragement to the Christians who feel they have been forgotten in their isolation. They know it is not only German nationalism which gives them support but world-wide fellowship in Christ.

So the churches in eastern Germany continue their life and work in faith and trust. Congregations have sloughed off the indifferent and grown stronger in their inner, spiritual life. For them every baptism and Christian marriage is a form of public confession of faith, a quiet resistance to communism. When pastors are called for interrogation, blindfolded and carried hundreds of miles from home for weeks of questioning, it is very evident that the communist authorities are baffled and infuriated by the quiet confidence of Christians. Here is a power they cannot break by terror or threats. This fact is especially frustrating to those who acknowledge no power higher than the State, and no force stronger than economic determinism.

So the churches witness in the ways permitted them. The pastors can preach and teach in the churches, but they cannot minister to the community outside the church building or in any way become critical of the State. Social service is forbidden because the Soviet State claims it meets all welfare needs. Social action is punished because the Soviet State claims it is impeccable. Help from the West is resented as a resistance to Soviet all-competency, so the charge is leveled against Christians that they are collaborating with NATO and western capitalism. But no one is deceived, least of all the church leaders. "Tell the people in your churches," said Dr. Otto Dibelius to our Seminar, "that the Bishop of Berlin sends thanks to them for all that they have done to help us in our struggle."

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Ray Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action, has led a number of Summer Study Seminars to Europe and the Near East. The 1957 tour included not only parts of the East Zone of Germany but also the Soviet Union.

ELEVENTH WORLD ORDER AND UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR

Christian Ethics and American Foreign Policy

Conducted by the Council for Christian Social Action
of the United Church of Christ

October 14-16, 1957

Leaders: Herman F. Reissig — Huber F. Klemme

Riverside Church, New York

(Monday and Wednesday Sessions)

Riverside Drive at 122nd St. (entrance on Claremont Ave. between 120th and 122nd St.)

PROGRAM

Monday, October 14—Riverside Church

- 9:00 A.M. Registration
9:20 Opening Worship
9:30 "Review of Major World Problems"
Dr. Saul K. Padower
New School for Social Research
10:30 "The What and Why of the United States
Foreign Aid Program"
Mr. Lincoln Hale
Former Middle East Technical
Cooperation Administrator
11:30 Panel on Foreign Aid
12:30 P.M. Luncheon—Riverside Cafeteria
2:00 "Christian Ethics and United States
Foreign Policy"
Dr. Kenneth Thompson
Rockefeller Foundation
2:45 Panel on Ethics and Foreign Policy
Speaker to be announced
4:30 Adjournment
Evening Free

Tuesday, October 15—United Nations

- 9:15 A.M. Tour of United Nations Buildings
9:15 Special Seminar Session for those not wishing
to take the building tour
10:30 Attendance at U.N. Sessions
11:45 Luncheon (Delegates' Dining Room)
1:00 P.M. Special Briefing Session
Speakers from U.N. Secretariat
2:00 Visit to U.N. Book and Gift Shop

- 3:00 U.N. Sessions
6:00 Seminar Dinner
Speaker: Dr. Ralph Hyslop
Union Theological Seminary

Wednesday, October 16—Riverside Church

- 9:00 A.M. "The World Council of Churches and the
National Council of Churches at Work in
International Affairs"
Speaker invited
10:00 "International Affairs in Your Church and
Community"
Discussion leaders: Huber F. Klemme
and Herman F. Reissig
12:00 Adjournment

This seminar is one of a number sponsored by the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ as an aid to pastors and social action committee members, women's guild leaders, and other interested persons.

The cost of the seminar is \$6.00, including Tuesday seminar dinner. In addition, individuals are responsible for transportation and lodging; U.N. tour, 75c (no charge for ministers); lunch in the delegates' dining room, \$1.80 and up. Overnight accommodations may be secured at the Congregational Christian Service Center, 110 East 29th Street, or at nearby hotels—such as the George Washington or the Tudor.

Reservations are still being accepted for this seminar. Registration fee of \$6.00 should be sent *at once* to Rev. Herman Reissig, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

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Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor
Sent free to pastors and social action committees.

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Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

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